

Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant

Indiana

Rape Prevention Focus Strengthened in Indiana

"The popularity of the program has kept it going in growing, requiring the YWCA to hire a second outreach specialist of the summer of 2017. The two YWCA outreach and prevention specialists worked together over the summer so that both could work individually in the communities we offer these services: St. Joseph and Elkhart Counties. The educators and organizers with whom we work, have consistently asked the YWCA back. We are excited that this has proven to be such a well-received SOS funded program in these communities. "

Kelly Sanford, Director of Grant Administration
YWCA North Central

Public Health Problem (Issue)

Rape and other forms of sexual assault can have profoundly traumatic, long-lasting effects that often interrupt a victim's life. When the CDC reported that 85% of the sexual contact Hoosier students reported experiencing before age 18 was unwanted, there was little doubt that services for victims were needed and should be prioritized in funding. However, funding services without also funding prevention efforts is a guarantee that the costs of sexual assault will continue to rise. Sexual assault bears a \$127 billion per year cost, which is far higher than any other crime. These costs may be due to needed ongoing medical and mental health treatment, lost work productivity, and criminal justice efforts. Prevention is the most effective investment for avoiding these costs.

Taking Action (Intervention)

The PHHSBG's SAS funding is vital to Indiana for two reasons: 1) it is the only funding stream that allows for sexual assault prevention efforts, and 2) it is the one of few funding streams for services solely to address sexual assault.

As other funding sources that prioritize these objectives grow in size and number, a continually evolving funding strategy helps ensure the best use of all funds are achieved. Until the emergence of Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) through the Office on Violence Against Women, SAS funds were the only grant dollars awarded solely for sexual assault services. While the availability of these SASP funds greatly increased the state's capacity to meet the needs of sexual assault survivors, SAS funds were still needed for service provisions, with only a portion left to be awarded for prevention efforts.

This year, with the emergence of the State's Sexual Assault Victim Assistance Fund, ICJI revised its sexual assault funding strategy with great success. In the past year, the total of available funding increased from approximately \$650,000 to \$2.1 million. In consideration of this increase of available funds for services, ICJI prioritized prevention in awarding 2016 SAS dollars. Historically, three-quarters of SAS funds were allocated for services and one-quarter for prevention, and this year those figures were intentionally reversed.

Impact

With the increased availability of funds at the state level, the complementary nature of prevention and services in comprehensively addressing sexual assault is realized: Prevention is often provided by the very agencies that also provide services to sexual assault victims. While prevention efforts help to decrease the prevalence of sexual assault and its costs, audiences are also exposed to information on the services available and how to access them. So, while the amount of funds allocated for prevention efforts tripled in 2016, there was a similar increase in the number of victims served.

Increased funding does not always translate to more effective social services and efforts. With the vital component of strategizing all available funds to leverage them in a way that maximizes the purpose and achievements of all sources, Indiana has successfully ensured that more effective services are more accessible to more people who are reached by more prevention and awareness efforts, realizing both objectives of the SAS funds.

Footnotes

N/A

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Healthy People Objective

Sexual Violence (Rape Prevention)

PHHS Block Grant Funding

75-99% - Primary source of funding

PHHS Block Grant Coordinator

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For more information on the

PHHS Block Grant, go to

www.cdc.gov/phhsblockgrant

For more information on

Healthy People, go to www.healthypeople.gov

PHHS Block Grant Supports

Indiana Healthy People Priorities

The PHHS Block Grant provides flexible funding that states can use to prevent and control chronic diseases, respond quickly to outbreaks of infections and waterborne diseases, and address their specific public health needs. States can align their programs with health objectives from [Healthy People](#).

Indiana uses its funds to address 14 health objective priorities, including

- Cardiovascular Health.
- Community Water Fluoridation.
- Accredited Public Health Agencies.
- Public Health Agency Quality Improvement Program.
- Health Improvement Plans.

For a complete list of funded health objectives, go to

<http://www.cdc.gov/phhsblockgrant/stateHPprior.htm>.